finding it difficult to procure empty containers;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) other measures being adopted to boost the container traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The percentage growth of container traffic (TEUs) at all major ports during last three years over respective previous year has been as under:-

1988-89	7.6%
1989-90	17.0%
1990-91	7.0%

(b) The question presumably relates to availability of empty containers. Ship owners are facing difficulty in procuring empty containers at time due to imbalance in container traffic resulting in accumulation of empty containers at European Ports and shortage at Indian Ports.

(c) Empty containers are provided by re-positioning containers from other ports including foreign ports.

(d) Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations are being set up to provide boost to container traffic. Container handling facilities have been created at 24 locations. Periodical Trade Promotion meetings with representatives of Port Users and Chamber of Commerce are held.

Ministerial Meeting of Group of 77

3602. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the 7th Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 held in Tehran during November, 1991 to finalise their stand in connection with the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development-VIII (UNCTAD-VIII);

(b) if so, the consolidated view of the developing countries as a whole formulated at the above meeting; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). India participated in the 7th Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 held in Tehran from 19th to 23rd November, 1991 in preparation for UNCTAD-VIII. The meeting adopted a Declaration sub-titled towards a New Partnership for Development and finalised a substantive platform of the Group of 77 for international cooperation in areas of resources for development, international trade, technology, commodities and trade in services. These issues will be now discussed in the UNCTAD-VIII scheduled to be held in Colombia in February, 1992.

2 The Tehran Declaration says, inter alia, that the dialogue towards a new partnership for development must be pragmatic and realistic, non-confrontational, based on a mutuality of interest, and above all aimed at achieving, through a gradual deepening of the international consensus on specific issues, concrete agreements that can be implemented. It must also lead to the establishment of mechanisms for follow-up on the actions agreed upon the monitor the extent to which they are being carried out. The focus of the dialogue must

be the strengthening of national and international action and multilateral cooperation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy and more specifically the promotion of economic growth, technological capabilities and accelerated development in the developing countries.

3. The Tehran Declaration and the substantive platform finalised in the Ministerial meeting was the result of consensus among the participating countries, and India shares in the consensus.

Foreign Loans

[*Translation*]

3603. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking loans from foreign countries;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to mobilise the resources with in country itself by encouraging savings instead of taking loans from foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Loans are taken from foreign countries/institutions mainly for meeting the foreign exchange requirements of various project and non-project programmes according to our National Plan priorities. Government do not regard foreign borrowings as a substitute for resource mobilisation through domestic efforts and have taken a number of steps to bring about improvements in revenue receipts and domestic savings, eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure. Details of the important measures taken in this regard are contained in the Finance Minister's Budget speech presented in the Lok Sabha on 24th July, 1991.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Study on Development of Oak Tasar in Garhwal Region, U.P.

3604. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the villages covered during the study undertaken of development of Oak Taser in Garhwal region; and

(b) the steps being taken to develop commercially viable technology for development of Oak Tasar in Garhwal region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) In order to develop commercially viable technology for development of Oak Taser in the country, the Central Silk Board's Regional Tasar Research Stations have presently undertaken a few selected projects in the fields of Silkworm Breeding & Genetics, Physiology, Entomology & Pathology, Hot Plant and Reeling & Spinning.